



GCE AS/A LEVEL

2100U60-1



S25-2100U60-1

MONDAY, 19 MAY 2025 – AFTERNOON

HISTORY – AS unit 2

DEPTH STUDY 6

France in revolution c.1774–1815

**Part 1: France: the causes and course of revolution
c.1774–1792**

1 hour 45 minutes

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

A WJEC pink 16-page answer booklet.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen. Do not use gel pen or correction fluid.

Answer **both** questions.

Write your answers in the separate answer booklet provided, following the instructions on the front of the answer booklet.

Use both sides of the paper. Write only within the white areas of the booklet.

Write the question number in the two boxes in the left-hand margin at the start of each answer,

for example

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Leave at least two line spaces between each answer.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question.

You are advised to spend approximately 50 minutes on each question.

The sources used in this examination paper may have been amended, adapted or abridged from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

The sources may include words that are no longer in common use and are now regarded as derogatory terminology. Their inclusion reflects the time and place of the original version of these sources.

Answer **both** questions.

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying attempts at reform in France between 1781 and 1789. [30]

Source A Jacques Necker, the man in charge of French finances, writing to the King in his *Compte Rendu au Roi* [Report to the King] (January 1781)

I hasten in this moment to announce to Your Majesty, that the present state of finances is such that they exceed, at this moment, Your ordinary expenses, by ten million two hundred thousand livres. This is in spite of the deficit in 1776, in spite of the immense expenses of the war, and in spite of the interest on the loans made to support Your Majesty's ordinary revenues. It is the result of my efforts and the various reforms that You have allowed, as well as by the improvement of your revenues, or by their natural increase, and by the extinction of some annuities and some repayments.

Source B Memorandum to Louis XVI from a group of royal princes known as the Princes of the Blood (12 December 1788)

The claim put forward by several sections of the Third Estate is that their estate should obtain two votes in the Estates-General while each of the two leading Estates continue to have only one.

The undersigned princes agree with the Assembly of Notables [that there would be injustice and danger if the composition of the Estates-General – and the form of summoning it – were changed]. ... If votes were counted by head and without distinction of Estates, the corruption of a few members of the Third Estate would compromise the interests of the Second Estate, which are well protected in the present constitution. It would lead to the destruction of the balance between the three Estates, which has been so wisely established, as well as their independence.

It has been demonstrated to Your Majesty how important it is to preserve: the only form of summoning the Estates-General that is constitutional and which is upheld by law and custom; the distinction between the Estates; the right to deliberate in separate chambers; the equality of votes [between Estates], which are the unalterable foundations of the French monarchy.

Source C

A coloured print entitled *Réveil du Tiers État* [Awakening of the Third Estate] (c. July 1789). The image depicts a member of the Third Estate, wearing a Revolutionary cockade [knot of ribbons], breaking free of his chains and reaching for weapons as the nobility and the clergy jump back in horror.



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Historians have made different interpretations about **the causes of external conflicts** in this period. Analyse and evaluate the two interpretations together with your understanding of the historical debate to answer the following question:

How valid is the view that the war broke out in 1792 to protect the revolution? [30]

Interpretation 1 TCW Blanning, in this extract from his book *The Origins of the French Revolutionary Wars* (1986), presents an interpretation that suggests the French Legislative Assembly wanted war in order to protect the revolution.

The dominant party in the French Legislative Assembly was intent on, indeed desperate for, war [in order to protect the Revolution]. ... There was a general fear of royal treachery and counter-revolutionary conspiracy that the Brissotins played [encouraged] with ever increasing effect. It was the argument on which they built their ultimate solution to all of France's problems – war. The campaign for war was launched by Brissot in a speech on 20 October 1791. The main theme was the existence of a gigantic international conspiracy to restore the old regime.

Interpretation 2 Norman Hampson, in this extract from his book *The French Revolution: A Concise History* (1975), presents an interpretation that suggests Louis XVI wanted France to lose the war so that the power of the monarchy could be restored.

The Assembly voted for the deportation of priests who refused to take the oath to the Civil Constitution of the Clergy and demanded the death penalty for émigrés who refused to leave expeditionary forces that were gathering in Germany. ... Both proposals were vetoed by the King. ... By the spring of 1792, most influential opinion was in favour [of a war]. The King and Queen were confident that the Allied armies (of Austria and Prussia) would brush aside the French forces and restore the monarchy to its former power.

END OF PAPER